

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 AID-05 ABF-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 L-03 SP-02 OIC-02 AGR-05 EB-07 IOE-00
/117 W

-----101807Z 021494 /40

P R 101527Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 657
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLANABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 3028

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR UN NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC

REF: (A) GENEVA 4619, (B) THE HAGUE 2914

1. SUMMARY: THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED APPEALS TO MAKE A
SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL.
BUT IS HAS SET A PRECEDENT FOR USING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
FUNDS IN THE FIGHT TO REDUCE THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS,
PROVIDED THE MONEY IS USED PRIMARILY FOR DEVELOPMENT. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR TODAY RECEIVED A LETTER DATED JUNE 8 FROM
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER PRONK, IN RESPONSE TO ONE
SENT BY THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 17 (THE HAGUE 884). ENCLOSED
WITH PRONK'S LETTER WAS A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM PRIME
MINISTER DEN UYL TO UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS REFERRED
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TO IN GENEVA 4619.

3. THE TEXT OF THE PRONK LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE: I CERTAINLY ATTACH GREAT VALUE TO UN ACTIVITIES
RELATED TO DRUG PROBLEMS IN GENERAL. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION HOWEVER, I AM PRIMARILY CONCERNED
WITH INTEGRATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF RURAL

DEVELOPMENT WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF DRUG PROBLEMS AS WELL, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF CROP REPLACEMENT.

RECENTLY, I DECIDED TO ALLOCATE FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR AN AMOUNT OF 112,176 US DOLLARS FOR THE FINANCING OF A RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER. THROUGH THIS PROJECT, RESEARCH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN INTO MARKET POSSIBILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS COMING FROM UNFDAC'S CROP REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS.

I INTEND TO RENDER ASSISTANCE THROUGH UNDP TO INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CONNECTION WITH CROP REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN AND THE PROVINCE BADA KSHAM IN AFGHANISTAN.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS WRITTEN TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNFDAC ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FUND IN GENERAL. I ENCLOSE A COPY OF HIS LETTER. END QUOTE.

4. PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS OF THE DEN UYL LETTER, AS TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED TO ADMIT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE FUND IN ITSELF CAN BE A STIMULUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY IN SOME COUNTRIES AND AS SUCH HAS A USEFUL ROLE. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PRESENT PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED ONLY IF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED

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IN HEROIN PRODUCTION CAN DEVELOP AND GIVE EFFECT TO A POLICY BY WHICH THE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OPIUM IS HALTED AND ILLEGAL TRADE CAN BE FOUGHT EFFECTIVELY AT THE SOURCE. THIS IS IN THE FIRST PLACE A SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH MATTER OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. THIS INVOLVES VERY COMPLEX QUESTIONS- BEYOND THE DRUG PROBLEMS - OF A POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC NATURE.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WANTS TO KEEP ITSELF ENTIRELY ALOOF FROM INITIATIVES DEVELOPED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO COME TO AN APPROACH TO THIS VERY COMPLICATED PROBLEM AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION I POINT TO THE RECENT DECISION TO FINANCE A RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER (UNCTAD/GATT), AIMED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM THE UNFDAC PROJECT TO REPLACE POPPY CULTIVATION IN THAILAND. FOR THIS RESEARCH PROJECT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE FROM DEVELOPMENT AID FUNDS A

CONTRIBUTION OF \$112,176 FOR 1977.

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT IS IN PRINCIPLE PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY THE FINANCING OF PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION THAT CAN ALSO BE IMPORTANT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, PROVIDED THEY FIT INTO NATIONAL POLICY IN THIS RESPECT. THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IS PRESENTLY STUDYING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTING ON THIS PRINCIPLE IN THE NEAR TERM. IN THIS CONNECTION THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SO-CALLED MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNDP. IT IS THE INTENTION TO INFORM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT FURTHER DUTCH STEPS IN THIS MATTER. END QUOTE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 3028

5. COMMENT: WE CANNOT HIDE OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE LETTER FROM DEN UYL, AFTER GOING THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC NEGOTIATIONS, FAILED TO COMMIT DUTCH MONEY TO UNFDAC. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME ENCOURAGING POINTS. AS DE BEUS NOTED (GENEVA 4619), THE LETTER LEAVES THE DOOR AJAR FOR CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN UNFDAC HAS PROJECT PROPOSALS IN HAND. DEN UYL SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS THAT "CAN ALSO BE IMPORTANT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE." PRONK'S LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR TAKES THIS ONE STEP FARTHER BY STATING HIS INTENTION TO RENDER ASSIS-

TANCE THROUGH THE UNDP "TO INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CONNECTION WITH CROP REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES" IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. THE PRECEDENT THUS HAS BEEN SET FOR USING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUNDS IN THE FIGHT TO REDUCE THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS, PROVIDED THE MONEY IS USED PRIMARILY FOR DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS WAY PRONK HAS PROTECTED HIS FUNDS FROM ENCROACHMENT BY OTHER MINISTERS SEEKING TO USE THE GOLDEN LARDER OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. WHILE THIS DOES
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NOT ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF SENATOR INOUE (STATE 56752) NOR THE RECOMMENDATION CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER MADE FOR A ONE MILLION DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY TO UNFDAC, WE HOPE THAT THE POSITIVE ASEPTS OF DEN UYL'S AND PRONK'S LETTERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. FYI: UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHER FACTORS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. FIRST, THE OFFICIALS HERE WHO MAKE NARCOTICS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY DO NOT RESPECT THE FUND'S DIRECTOR. ONE OF THEM TOLD US POINTEDLY THAT THE UN HAD NOT CONSULTED THE DUTCH ABOUT DE BEUS' APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION, BECAUSE DE BEUS ARRANGED THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH HIS CLOSE FRIEND UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. SECOND, THE SAME OFFICIALS REGARD THE FUND AS AN ESSENTIALLY US CREATION, HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE US AND DEVOTING DISPROPORTIONATE EFFORT TO COMBATTING THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS AT THE EXPENSE OF DOING ANYTHING ABOUT DEMAND. THIRD, JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT, WHO FIRST PROPOSED THAT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUNDS BE USED FOR UNFDAC'S CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IN NORTHERN THAILAND (THE HAGUE 419) AND PRONK, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING HOW SUCH FUNDS ARE TO BE SPENT, ARE MEMBERS OF RIVAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND DO NOT NECESSARILY WORK IN HARMONY. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE FACTORS WERE AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE RATHER WEAK ARGUMENT EMPLOYED BY DEN UYL (HEROIN-PRODUCING COUNTRIES NEED TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN POLICIES TO HALT PRODUCTION). THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THESE FACTORS MAY ALTER THE PROSPECTS FOR A DUTCH CONTRIBUTION. FOR EXAMPLE, DE BEUS MAY NOT REMAIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND OTHERS MAY MAKE THE FUND APPEAR LESS DOMINATED BY THE US, AND THE FORMATION OF NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT MAY BRING DIFFERENT PERSONS INTO THE KEY MINISTERIAL POSITIONS IN THE HAGUE. WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO ELICIT A CHANGE OF MIND. END FYI.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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